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MERRY CHRISTMAS. Merry voices, have your way; To all us, lovely, laughing eyes; Turn December into May...

AFTER TWENTY YEARS. A CHRISTMAS STORY. Miss Bridget was an old maid; that is, she had been so long recognized and known as "Miss Bridget" that her friends and neighbors would have scouted the idea of her ever being called by any other name.

It had been in the autumn that he had gone away from her; and ever since, and now, when the season had returned, and the brown leaves pattered on the stone walks in the garden, she had felt these things of her crushed-out longings and hopes press heavily upon her.

It was toward dusk on Christmas eve, and she sat alone by the bright fire in the sitting-room, and she might have been once again the painful pleasure of reminiscence she let her memory carry her back to those halcyon days twenty years gone.

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That she was ever amiable, kindly, and generous, was a general reputation which she had achieved by the mere force of her personality; but those who so believed her would have been at a loss for details to substantiate it.

Twenty years before, Miss Bridget had loved and been loved by the curly-headed young man preserver and the separation of the threads of their lives, which ought to have been woven together perpetually had been a sad, sore lesson.

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REVOLTING SAVAGE RITES.

A VIVID DESCRIPTION OF MISSION LIFE IN AFRICA. A Terrible Picture of Cruelty Practiced by Fetiche Priests—Human Flesh at Public Sale.

The Rev. Ferdinand Meshini and the Rev. William Connaughton have arrived from Africa, where they have been converting the natives along the gold coast, around the White Nile and in the Sudan.

The natives of the second generation, the priest said, "may be called members of a civilized community. At Porto-Novo, Lagos, Abekouta and other stations it is not rare to find native children carrying off the prizes from the children of European parents who are domiciled in these localities.

"After the kings, the priests who practice medicine are, perhaps, the greatest personages in this region. They need only to threaten to leave, and generally they once obtain any concession, demand from these sovereigns. The huts of the common people are made of bamboo, thatched with palm leaves.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TIME.

TRADITIONAL OBSERVANCES OF THE SEASON IN ENGLAND. Religious Sentiments and Popular Superstitions—Carols, Games and Customs.

And all the angels in Heaven shall sing; On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day; And all the bells on earth shall ring.

Some of these, as Herrick's exquisite Star Song, are poems of the highest merit and others attractive only from their quaint simplicity and evident spirit of devotion.

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THE YEAR IS OLD—SO OLD!

The year is old—so old! The year is old—so old! The year is old—so old! The year is old—so old!

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

Large cuts are said to denote generosity. The male is very generous with his boots. "My poor fellow," asked a man of the living skeleton at the Pine Museum...

THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF WALES.

The Etistodfedd is the great national festival of Wales, which had the commencement of its history in the remote past.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

In Shakespeare's time carols were sung in the streets during Christmas by waits or watchmen, who expected to receive gifts for their singing.

THROWING DOWN THE GAUNTLET.

From time immemorial throwing down the gauntlet has been a symbol of defiance, challenge or insult.

INFANTILE THUMB-SUCKING.

The British Medical Journal publishes an article by Dr. Horace Dobell, in which he has observed that a peculiar and rather uncommon deformity of the thumb is accompanied by the habit of sucking the thumb in infancy and early childhood.

HEALTH HINTS.

The best lung protectors are dry feet and warm comfortable foot clothing, not shoes and no late suppers or dissipations.